

In The Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An endotracheal tube holder comprising:

a base having a bottom surface for bearing against a patient's face, and an opposite surface;

a tube-holding assembly having a tube-securing block fixed to said base and extending perpendicular to the opposite surface of said base and two clip-securing blocks arranged on opposite sides of said tube-securing block and also fixed to said base and extending perpendicular to the opposite surface of said base;

a tube-retaining clip having two legs and a base end portion, said two legs extending from said base end portion, said legs arranged to be engaged to said clip-securing blocks, with said legs straddling the tube-securing block, each leg inserted between a respective space between said tube-securing block and each respective clip-securing block wherein an endotracheal tube can be captured between said tube-securing block and said base end portion of said clip;

said tube-securing block arranged to hold the endotracheal tube in a direction generally perpendicular to the opposite surface of the base.

2. (Previously Presented) The tube holder according to claim 1, wherein one of said tube-securing block and said base end portion comprises tube-engaging teeth to grip said tube.

3. (Previously Presented) The tube holder according to claim 1, wherein each of said tube-securing block and said base end portion comprises a pair of planar areas of tube-engaging teeth.

4. (Previously Presented) The tube holder according to claim 1, wherein said clip-

securing blocks each comprise first teeth on sides of said clip-securing blocks that face toward each other, and said legs comprise second teeth on sides of said legs facing away from each other wherein said first and second teeth are mutually engaged wherein said clip is installed to said base.

5. (Original) The tube holder according to claim 4, wherein said first and second teeth are angled in ratchet fashion to allow said clip to be installed by pushing said legs into said spaces while resisting retraction of said legs from engagement to said clip-securing blocks wherein said clip is pulled in an opposite direction.

6. (Original) The tube holder according to claim 5, wherein said legs can be squeezed together to release said first teeth from said second teeth to remove said clip from said tube-holding assembly.

7. (Original) The tube holder according to claim 1, wherein said base includes arms that straddle the patient's mouth extending in a transverse direction to the patient's face and said tube-securing block is arranged adjacent to a side of the patient's mouth.

8. (Original) The tube holder according to claim 1, comprising a restraining strap, wherein said base includes an attachment for said strap, wherein said strap can encircle the patient's head to hold the base to the patient's face.

9. (Original) The tube holder according to claim 1, wherein said base comprises a bite block that extends below said bottom surface into the patient's mouth to prevent closing together of the patient's upper and lower teeth.

10. (Original) The tube holder according to claim 1, wherein said retaining clip is separable from said base when said legs are disengaged from said clip-securing block.

11. (Original) The tube holder according to claim 10, further comprising a tether connected between said base and said clip.

12. (Previously Presented) The tube holder according to claim 1, wherein said base includes arms that straddle the patient's mouth extending in a transverse direction to the patient's face, and comprising a restraining strap, wherein said base includes an attachment for said strap, wherein said strap can encircle the patient's head to hold the base to the patient's face, wherein said strap comprises two parallel strap portions, and comprising hook and loop engagable fasteners applied between the top surface of the arms and the two parallel strap portions, and said strap comprises a base portion fixed to said base.

13. (Original) The tube holder according to claim 1, wherein said tube-securing block comprises an overhang position above each space, said overhang portions retain said clip to said base to prevent separation in a direction perpendicular to a top surface of said base.

14. (Currently Amended) An endotracheal tube holder comprising:  
a base having a face-bearing surface;  
a tube holding formation fixed to the base and having two first clip retaining portions at ~~least one first clip retaining portion~~, a clip hold down portion providing a cap that overhangs the base and forms a vertical clearance between the base and the cap, and a first tube-bearing surface;

a clip, separate from said base and having two second clip retaining portions ~~at least one second clip retaining portion~~, and a second tube-bearing surface, said clip at least partially slidable ~~beneath~~ between said cap and said base, said second clip-retaining ~~portion~~ portions engagable with said first clip-retaining ~~portion~~ portions when said clip is slid at least partially between said cap and said base in a linear direction to latch said first and second tube-bearing surfaces tightly against an endotracheal tube located therebetween;

said clip sized and configured to have a thickness to be captured between the cap and the base to prevent removal of the clip from the base.

15. (Currently Amended) The tube holder according to claim 14, wherein said two first clip retaining portions ~~at least one first clip retaining portion~~ comprises two clip-retaining blocks arranged on opposite sides of, and spaced from, said first tube-bearing surface; and said two second clip retaining portions ~~at least one second clip retaining portion~~ comprises two legs, each leg engagable to a respective one clip-retaining block.

16. (Previously Presented) The tube holder according to claim 14, wherein said first and second tube-bearing surfaces each comprising planar areas of tube-engagable teeth.

17. (Original) The tube holder according to claim 14, wherein said base comprises spaced apart arms for bearing on the patient's face, straddling the patient's mouth, and a base portion connecting the arms and carrying said first tube-bearing surface, said first tube-bearing surface arranged to be located at a corner of the patient's mouth.

18. (Original) The tube holder according to claim 14, comprising a tether connecting said clip and said base.

19. (Currently Amended) The tube holder according to claim 14, further comprising a latch element, said latch element manually movable to prevent said two first clip retaining portions at ~~least one first clip retaining portion~~ and said two second clip retaining portions at ~~least one second clip retaining portion~~ from becoming disengaged from each other.

20. (Currently Amended) The tube holder according to claim 19, wherein said two first clip retaining portions at ~~least one first clip retaining portion~~ comprises two clip-retaining blocks arranged on opposite sides of, and spaced from, said first tube-bearing surface, and said two second clip retaining portions at ~~least one second clip retaining portion~~ comprises two legs, each leg engagable to a respective one clip-retaining block and said latch element is arranged to brace between said first and second legs to prevent disengagement of said legs and said clip-retaining blocks.